

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of Claims 9-19.

Except as discussed below, Applicants are amending the claims to clarify the subject matter therein. These amendments are not in response to a patentability rejection.

As Applicants are filing a RCE herewith, it is respectfully submitted that this amendment and the accompanying IDS should be entered and considered at this time.

Applicants have the following response to the Examiner's only remaining rejection in the Final Rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

In the Final Rejection, the Examiner rejects Claims 1, 5, 20 and 21 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Gardner (US 6,573,774). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While Applicants traverse this rejection, in order to advance the prosecution of this application, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1 and 5 to recite a "third NAND" and that "an output of the second NAND is electrically connected to the first input terminal of the third NAND." These features are shown, for example, in Fig. 1B of the present application.

In contrast, Gardner does not disclose or suggest a third NAND or that an output of the second NAND is electrically connected to the first input terminal of the third NAND, as in independent Claims 1 and 5. Hence, Gardner does not disclose or suggest the circuit of independent Claims 1 and 5.

Independent Claim 20 recites "simultaneously inputting a signal to each first input terminal of n NANDs included in an inspecting circuit" (emphasis added). Independent Claim 21 recites

“simultaneously inputting each of the sampled signals to each first input terminal of n NANDs included in an inspecting circuit” (emphasis added).

In contrast, Gardner does not disclose or suggest simultaneously inputting a signal to each of alleged signal lines 102 and 104, and there has been no showing by the Examiner as to where these claimed features are shown in Gardner. Therefore, the methods of independent Claims 20-21 are not disclosed or suggested by Gardner, and these claims are patentable over Gardner.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 5, 20 and 21 are patentable over Gardner, and it is requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

New Claims

Applicants are adding new Claims 22-25 herein. As a RCE is being filed herewith, it is respectfully requested that these new claims be entered and allowed at this time. If any fee should be due for these claims, please charge our deposit account 50/1039.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants are filing an information disclosure statement (IDS) herewith. As a RCE is also being submitted, it is respectfully requested that this IDS be entered and considered prior to the issuance of any further action for this application.

Conclusion


It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and should be allowed.

If any fee is due for this amendment, please charge our deposit account 50/1039.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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